

DD/567-5987

15 November 1967

Dear Bob:

I am writing you as a private employee to ask that you look personally into the morning traffic jam at the North Gate. Each morning at about 8:20 AM about one hundred cars back up as much as a mile, with District-bound traffic passing by at up to 60 mph. With the thousands of stopping and starting operations that ensue, as the line inches forward, plenty of property and personal safety is hazarded each day. With the high speed of left lane traffic, with people pulling in and out of line, CIA lives are in daily danger too.

The trouble comes when traffic from the North on the Parkway merges with traffic coming around the ramp from the South to enter the gate. Because of the way the roads are laid out, the traffic from the South overrides the smaller lane from the North, although the rules of the road give the North traffic the right of way. What is needed are rubber lane markers, more warning signs, police control to see that people stay in their appropriate lanes, and so on. Your logistics people -- partly because they were prodded by me, I guess -- have taken this problem up with the Park Service, but I have seen no action on this since May 1967.

I might add that the sign placed on the ramp from the South, trying to make that traffic stay in the left lane, is itself ambiguous and perhaps misleading. It says:

MERGING
TRAFFIC
KEEP LEFT

The sign has no punctuation, and it is supposed to mean, colloquially stated: "There is traffic merging with you just ahead; keep to the left so you won't obstruct it." But ignorant drivers (and there seem to be plenty of them) interpret it to mean: "You guys who are going to merge with the traffic keep to the left." A lot of people who misinterpret the sign seem to think they themselves are not merging traffic so they don't have to keep left, and they come barreling around in the right lane and block the traffic coming up from the ramp.

Of course, there is BPR traffic which must use the right lane in order to turn off to the right at the BPR entrance. The right lane should be reserved by them and it should be so marked.

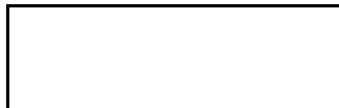
My observation of the problem and the methods used to solve it convince me that the matter has somewhere become bogged down in bureaucratic indecision, most likely outside CIA. I respectfully suggest that your own personal intervention may free it and push it to a solution. You are also aware of the problems at the other gates, I know.

The security aspect of the traffic jams around the building are also well known to you, I am sure. I know little about this, but I do think that the faster our cars get inside the fence, the harder it will be to photograph their plates.

I have given this traffic situation a lot of thought and if you need any more "help" from me, please let me know.

Sincerely,

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Mr. Bob Bannerman
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